

# THE PORTFOLIO

HL only (20% of final mark)

## Introduction

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The HL portfolio consists of three pieces of work, each based on a different news item, and produced as a result of research and discussion. The use of a news item as the basis of the piece of work is to encourage students to examine the impact of IT on everyday events at the local, national and global level. The emphasis is on the social and ethical considerations arising from the widespread use of IT in society.

Students should apply the methodologies for analysing the social impacts and ethical considerations of IT provided in the syllabus details. The three sections of the syllabus can be integrated very effectively in the pieces of work produced for the portfolio.

## Requirements

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- The portfolio consists of **three** pieces of written work.
- Each piece of work must be based on a **different** area of impact as specified in section 3 of the syllabus.
  - 3.1 Business and employment
  - 3.2 Education
  - 3.3 Health
  - 3.4 Arts, entertainment and leisure
  - 3.5 Science and the environment
  - 3.6 Politics and government
- Each piece should be 800–1,000 words in length. The list of references under criterion E is not included in the word count.
- Each piece must be based on a news item published not more than six months prior to the commencement of the course and written in the working language of the school.
- Students should select their own news items, although teachers can direct them to appropriate sources. Students may use the same news item for their stimulus material but collaborative work is not allowed. News items used as the basis for class discussion must not be used for the individual student's piece of work.
- The news item can be taken from any published source (newspaper, journal, the Internet) and should be a short article or extract.
- The student's piece of work must focus on the content and context presented in the news item. For example, if the news item is about the use of an IT system in a hospital and the student identifies social and ethical issues related to security and integrity of data, these must be examined in the context of a hospital as presented in the news item. The piece of work must not be a general discussion of these issues in any situation.
- The news item must be attached to the piece of work. If a student uses selected parts of a longer article, these should be highlighted on the news item sent to the moderator.
- A mark of zero will be awarded if the piece of work is not based on a news item.

## Presentation

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- Each piece of work must address the **assessment criteria A–E**. The assessment criteria headings A–E must be used as sub-headings in each piece of work that is included in the portfolio. This method enables students to present their work in a structured and coherent way.
- Each news item may raise one or more social or ethical issues related to an IT system and the student presents these issues under **criterion A**. It is essential that the student relates the issues to the specific context presented in the news item. Not every news item will present both social and ethical issues but across the three pieces of work in the portfolio the student must ensure that both social and ethical issues are examined. The social and ethical issues identified by the student are likely to fall into the categories in section 1 of the syllabus. However, developments in technology may raise new and different issues and students can write about these as long as they are clearly identified and described. The student must always make it clear which area of impact (section 3 of the syllabus) the news item is linked to.
- Under **criterion B** the student presents the IT background of the issue, referring to concepts, developments and trends.

- Under **criterion C** the student considers the impact of the issue on society. This may be at the local, national or global level depending on the focus of the news item. The use of IT in a particular area is likely to bring both advantages and disadvantages that the news item may or may not discuss directly. The student should consider both advantages and disadvantages. It is important that the student identifies at least one problem related to the use of IT in this area of impact because this leads into criterion D.
- Under **criterion D** the student looks for a solution to one problem identified in criterion C.
- It is essential that the student undertakes further research into the issues raised by the news item and a minimum of three other sources in addition to the news item should be used. A list of these further resources is provided under **criterion E**.

### Record keeping

Each portfolio piece must be presented in chronological order. The following information must be provided for each piece.

- Title
- Date completed
- Area of impact (section 3) to which the piece is related
- Number of words

### Assessing the portfolio

- The teacher must use the following criteria and their descriptors to assess the student's portfolio.
- The final mark for each criterion is not an average of the three pieces of work. Teachers should review the three pieces of work included in the portfolio and for each criterion award the mark that best represents the level of achievement reached by the student at the end of the course. The final mark for each criterion must have been achieved on at least one of the pieces of work in the portfolio.
- If any piece of work is obviously greater than the word limit, the external moderation will be based on the first thousand words.
- If fewer than three pieces of work are submitted the marks must be adjusted proportionally.
- The assessment weighting of this component (including the extension at HL) is 20%.

### Assessment criteria for the portfolio

The portfolio is assessed against **six** criteria that are related to the assessment objectives of the ITGS course.

Criterion A	Presentation of the issue	4 marks
Criterion B	The IT background of the issue	5 marks
Criterion C	The impact of the issue	5 marks
Criterion D	A solution to a problem arising from the issue	5 marks
Criterion E	Selection and use of sources	2 marks
Criterion F	Expression of ideas relevant to the social issue	4 marks
Total		25 marks

### A Presentation of the issue

Failure to refer to the news item will result in a penalty of 1 mark.

### Level Descriptor

0	Level 1 is not achieved or the news item is in the same area of impact as a previous piece of work.
1	The student identifies an appropriate social and/or ethical issue related to an IT system.
2	The student outlines an appropriate social and/or ethical issue related to an IT system.
3	The student describes an appropriate social and/or ethical issue related to an IT system.
4	The student explains an appropriate social and/or ethical issue related to an IT system.

## B The IT background of the issue

### Level Descriptor

0	Level 1 is not achieved.
1	The student states the IT background (concepts, plus developments and/or trends) relevant to the issue.
2	The student outlines the IT background (concepts, plus developments and/or trends) relevant to the issue.
3	The student describes the IT background (concepts, plus developments and/or trends) relevant to the issue.
4	The student explains the IT background (concepts, plus developments and trends) relevant to the issue.
5	The student analyses the IT background (concepts, plus developments and trends) relevant to the issue.

## C The impact of the issue

### Level Descriptor

0	Level 1 is not achieved.
1	The student outlines the impact of the issue on society, and identifies at least one related problem.
2	The student describes the impact of the issue on society, and identifies at least one related problem.
3	The student explains the impact of the issue on society, and identifies at least one related problem.
4	The student analyses (citing supporting research) the impact of the issue on society, and identifies at least one related problem.
5	The student evaluates (citing supporting research) the impact of the issue on society, and identifies at least one related problem.

## D A solution to a problem arising from the issue

- The solution must address **one** problem identified in criterion C. A non-IT solution is acceptable.
- If the problem has not been identified in criterion C or D, the student receives no marks for criterion D.

### Level Descriptor

0	Level 1 is not achieved.
1	The student states a feasible solution to the problem identified in criterion C.
2	The student outlines a feasible solution to the problem identified in criterion C.
3	The student describes a feasible solution to the problem identified in criterion C.
4	The student explains a feasible solution to the problem outlined in criterion C.
5	The student evaluates a feasible solution to the problem identified in criterion C.

## E Selection and use of sources

- Use any standard format for bibliography and footnotes.
- A copy of the news item must be attached to the piece of work.

### Level Descriptor

0	Level 1 is not achieved or the news item is not attached.
1	The student has provided a list of references (minimum 4, including the news item).
2	The student has provided a list of references (minimum 4, including the news item) and properly cited those references in the text.

## F Expression of ideas relevant to the social issue

### Level Descriptor

0	Level 1 is not achieved.
1	The student expresses ideas with supporting arguments.
2	The student expresses ideas with supporting arguments and relevant examples.
3	The student expresses ideas coherently with supporting arguments and extended relevant examples.